

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /089 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9369

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE

UNCLAS ANKARA 4168

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, TU,CY

SUBJ: GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION EXCHANGE CRITICISMS
ON CYPRUS POLICY

1. THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT AND THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) HAVE EXCHANGED PUBLIC CRITICISMS OVER THE GOT CYPRUS POLICY. TAKING THE INITIATIVE, THE RPP CHARGED THE GOVERNMENT WITH A LACK OF A STATED CYPRUS POLICY. PRIMIN DEMIREL, IN RESPONSE, LABELLED THE CHARGE INACCURATE AND A PRO-GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER LAUNCHED AN ATTACK ON RPP CHAIRMAN ECEVIT FOR SPOILING THE TRADITION OF PARTY UNITY ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES.

2. RPP CHAIRMAN ECEVIT, ADDRESSING THE CHAMBER OF ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS MAY 23, STATED THAT THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT "IS TRYING TO RUN FOREIGN POLICY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SECRET
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DIPLOMACY." ECEVIT SAID THAT "WE HAVE DETECTED A WAITING,

AN EXPECTATION BY SOME CIRCLES, FOR THE RPP TO EXPRESS AN ATTITUDE ON IMPORTANT FOREIGN ISSUES--INCLUDING CYPRUS--IN ADVANCE OF THE GOVERNMENT, TO EXPRESS AN ATTITUDE ALMOST AS IF TO GUIDE THE GOVERNMENT." ECEVIT, QUOTING THE LATE ISMET INONU'S MAXIM THAT A PARTY IN OPPOSITION SHOULD NOT RPT NOT TRY TO RUN FOREIGN POLICY, BUT SHOULD GIVE OPINIONS OR CRITICISMS OF THE GOVERNMENT POLICY, STATED THAT THE RPP WOULD WAIT FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO "CLARIFY" ITS STAND BEFORE TAKING A POSITION.

3. FORMER RPP FONMIN GUNES, IN A SPEECH IN SIVAS MAY 24, SAID THAT "WE HAVE ONCE AGAIN ENTERED A PERIOD OF COWARDLY AND TIMID FOREIGN POLICY FAR REMOVED FROM THE PEOPLE." HE CONTRASTED THE RPP GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE SAMPSON COUP IN CYPRUS WITH DEMIREL'S "LACK OF SPIRIT AND CONVICTION" WHICH, HE SAID, COULD NEVER LEAD TO SUCCESS. HE CITED DEMIREL'S ANSWER TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF WITHDRAWAL FROM THE MARAS AREA OF FAMAGUSTA ("NO SUCH THING AS YET") AS REALLY MEANING "NOT YET, BUT LATER" IN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE, A FACT WHICH WAS BEING KEPT FROM THE PEOPLE.

4. PRIMIN DEMIREL, ANSWERING REPORTERS' QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LACK OF A GOT CYPRUS POLICY AND THE POSSIBILITY OF CONCESSIONS, STATED ON DEPARTURE FOR BRUSSELS MAY 28 THAT "TURKISH FOREIGN POLICY IS CLEARLY DEFINED IN THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM." CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF CONCESSIONS, HE SAID THAT "IT IS NOT IMPERATIVE THAT THE CLAIMS OF THE OPPOSITION ARE ALWAYS ACCURATE...IT IS EASY TO SPECULATE ABOUT IMAGINARY CLAIMS, BUT I DO NOT CONSIDER THEM TO BE IN THE INTEREST OF OUR COUNTRY."

5. THE MAY 25 TERCUMAN, A PRO-GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER, EDITORIALIZED THAT THE "RPP HAS DESTROYED ONE MORE TRADITION" BY ABANDONING THE PRACTICE OF PARTY COOPERATION ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES. THE ARTICLE STATED THAT THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT HAD THROWN TURKEY INTO ISOLATION, BUT THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT HAD SUCCEEDED IN STARTING A DIALOGUE WITH GREECE AFTER ONLY 40 DAYS IN OFFICE. TERCUMAN ACCUSED ECEVIT OF CREATING A "MISCONCEPTION" ABOUT THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT IN THE MINDS OF THE JOURNALISTS ACCOMPANYING SECRETARY KISSINGER, AND STATED THAT ECEVIT WAS AIDED IN THIS EFFORT BY OFFICIALS OF "A FRIENDLY EMBASSY."

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